

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY SLPBREMER:GH

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

S/S-O: L. MATTESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 243376

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US

SUBJECT: FAHMY'S STATEMENT RE MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT
FOR AND PRESIDENT ASAD

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

1. THIS MORNING'S NEWS TICKERS CARRY STORIES QUOTING
FAHMY AS SAYING THAT PRESIDENT FORD WILL MEET PRESIDENT
ASAD IN EUROPE IN NOVEMBER.

2. COULD YOU IN YOUR NEXT MEETING WITH FAHMY, WITHOUT
BEING SHARP AND WITHOUT USING THESE EXACT WORDS, LET HIM
KNOW THAT WE FELT THIS WAS UNFORTUNATE, ESPECIALLY SINCE
NOTHING IS FIRM ON THIS SUBJECT AT ALL. WE HAVE NOT
HAD ANY RESPONSE FROM THE SYRIANS, AND HAVING THIS COME
OUT IN THE CAIRO PRESS WHILE ASAD WAS IN MOSCOW COULD MAKE
IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR ASAD TO ACCEPT PRESIDENT FORD'S SUG-
GESTION BY GIVING THE APPEARANCE OF THE US AND EGYPT
COLLUDING AGAINST SYRIA. AS WE ARE SURE FAHMY AGREES,
IT IS IN EGYPT'S INTEREST AS WELL AS OURS TO MAINTAIN OUR
LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH SYRIA, ESPECIALLY AS THE ISSUE
OF UNDOF RENEWAL BECOMES MORE ACTIVE. AN INCREASE OF
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TENSION ON THAT QUESTION, AS HAPPENED A YEAR AGO, WOULD

NOT SERVE EGYPT'S INTERESTS OR OURS. PLEASE PUT IT AS
DELICATELY AS POSSIBLE.
KISSINGER

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